



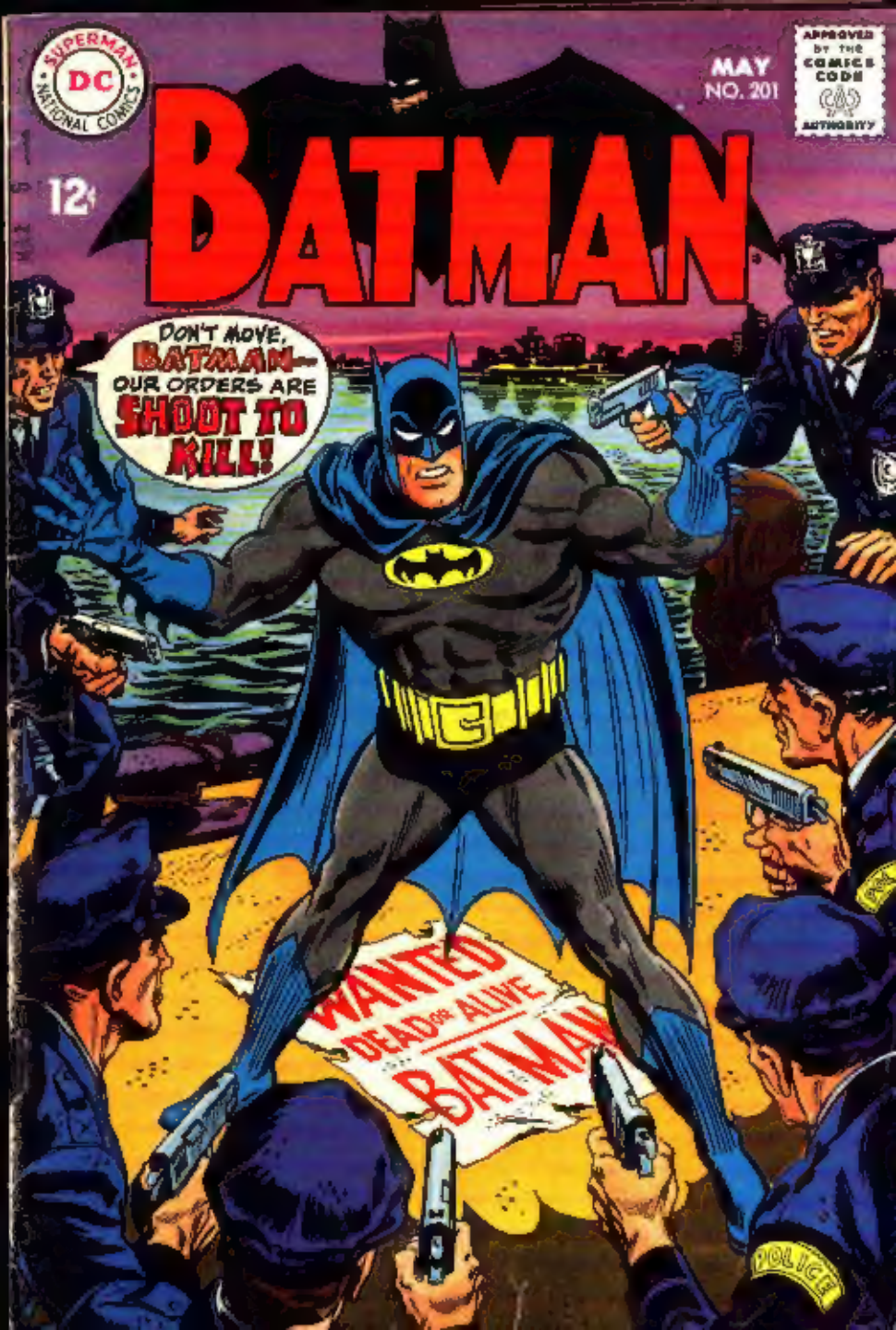
MAY  
NO. 201



# BATMAN

DON'T MOVE,  
**BATMAN--**  
OUR ORDERS ARE  
**SHOOT TO  
KILL!**

**WANTED**  
DEAD OR ALIVE  
**BATMAN**





SEVEN EXPERT MARKSMEN TAKING DEAD AIM AT A HANDCUFFED BATMAN! SEVEN OF GOTHAM CITY'S TOP VILLAINS TEAMING UP TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THEIR ARCH-FOE! THAT'S ALL WE'RE CLUING YOU IN ON THIS YARN OF PLOT AND COUNTER-PLOT!

# BATMAN'S GANGLAND GUARDIANS!



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SOMEWHERE IN GOTHAM CITY, IN A SECRET HIDEAWAY KNOWN ONLY TO THE OVERLORDS OF THE UNDERWORLD -- SITS A LIVING ROGUES' GALLERY OF CRIMEDON'S CLEVEREST CROOKS...

ALL RIGHT, PENGUIN-- THIS MEETING YOU SUMMONED US TO BETTER BE NO GAG!

YOU INTERRUPTED MY CATNAP--

I WAS TRYING ON A NEW HAT WHEN YOUR BIRDY VOICE ASSURED ME IT WAS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!

BATMAN'S DEATH!

AND OURS AS WELL!

CLUE US IN! WHOSE LIFE? WHOSE DEATH?



I'VE BEEN TIPPED OFF THAT A WEST COAST SYNDICATE IS ABOUT TO INVADE GOTHAM CITY!

SO WHAT! THERE'S NO CROOK GOING CAN CATCH THE GETAWAY GENIUS IN A DEATH-TRAP!

JOHNNY WITTS WILL ALWAYS BE ONE-STEP AHEAD OF 'EM!

WAIT! HEAR ME OUT, MY FINE-FEATHERED FELONS!

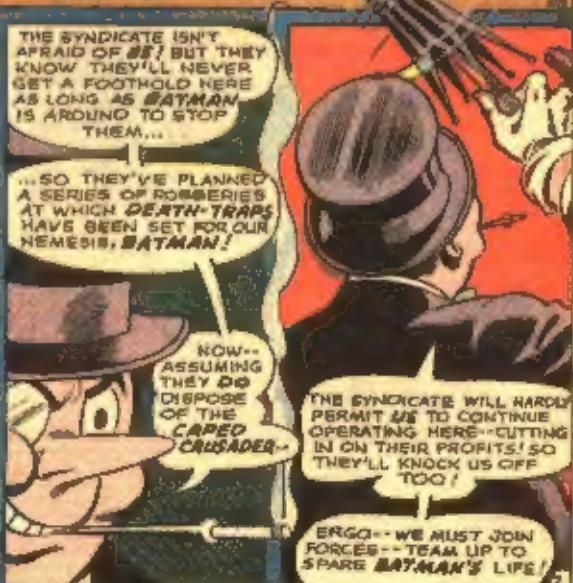
THE SYNDICATE ISN'T AFRAID OF **US**! BUT THEY KNOW THEY'LL NEVER GET A FOOTHOLD HERE AS LONG AS **BATMAN** IS AROUND TO STOP THEM...

...SO THEY'VE PLANNED A SERIES OF ROBBERIES AT WHICH **DEATH-TRAPS** HAVE BEEN SET FOR OUR NEMESIS, **BATMAN**!

NOW-- ASSUMING THEY **DO** DISPOSE OF THE **CAPED CAUSADER**--

THE SYNDICATE WILL HARDLY PERMIT **US** TO CONTINUE OPERATING HERE-- CUTTING IN ON THEIR PROFITS! SO THEY'LL KNOCK US OFF TOO!

ERGO-- WE MUST JOIN FORCES-- TEAM UP TO SPARE **BATMAN'S** LIFE!



BY SAVING BATMAN'S LIFE, WE'LL ACTUALLY BE SAVING OUR OWN!

THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER!

YOU'VE GIVEN US A PUN-ECT REASON TO STEP IN!

MY HAT'S OFF TO YOU, PENGUIN--FOR SOUNDING THE ALERT!

NOW--AN IMPORTANT QUESTION--

WHO TIPPED YOU OFF ABOUT ALL THIS?

READ, MAD MATTER! I WAS AFRAID OF THAT SABBARRASSING QUESTION! TO BE BLUNT ABOUT IT--

I DON'T KNOW!

SO THIS IS A GAG AT OUR EXPENSE, YOU BIRD-BRAIN!

NO--WAIT! I REALIZE IT'S A LOT TO ASK OF YOU--BUT ON MY HONOR AS A SUMBERSHOOT BANDIT--

A VOICE CAME TO ME OUT OF THIN AIR-- GIVING ME THE DATES AND PLACES TO BE ROBBED BY THE SYNDICATE-- AS WELL AS THE TYPE OF DEATH-TRAPS SET THERE FOR BATMAN!

I'M A STEP AHEAD OF YOU--YOU MASTER OF FOWL PLAY! I'M WALKING OUT ON THIS MEETING!

DO WE DARE TAKE THE RISK OF IGNORING THIS WARNING?

DO ANY OF YOU FAVOR THE SYNDICATE DESTROYING OUR CHANCES OF EVER MATCHING WITS WITH BATMAN AGAIN?

THE CAPEO CRUSADER'S SKIN IS MEANT FOR MY SHARPENED CLAWS!

SOME-DAY--SOMEWHERE--I'LL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH ON THAT MASKED MANHUNTER!

I'M TOSING MY HAT INTO THE RING--TO SAVE BATMAN!

COUNT ME IN!

AS THE GETAWAY GENIUS, I INSIST ON THE RIGHT OF HELPING BATMAN GET AWAY FROM ONE OF THOSE DEATH-TRAPS!

I'D BE HALF-WITTED NOT TO AGREE!



IT'S AGREED THEN-- THAT WE ALLY OURSELVES WITH BATMAN?

AGREED! BATMAN STAYS ALIVE--SO WE STAY ALIVE TO MATCH WITS WITH HIM AT A LATER DAY!

AGREED! THOUGH I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE THE DAY!

ONE CAUTIONING NOTE! WE MUST NEVER LET BATMAN SEE US!

IT MIGHT DESTROY HIS FAITH IN HUMAN NATURE IF HE SAW ANY OF HIS ARCH-FOES ACTUALLY SAVING HIS LIFE!

I'LL TAKE THE FIRST ROBBERY AND DEATH-TRAP--TO MAKE SURE IT OCCURS AS I'VE BEEN INFORMED!

THEN, AFTER IT'S BEEN CONFIRMED, I'LL CONTACT THE REST OF YOU AND GIVE YOU YOUR ASSIGNMENTS!

HEAVENLY HATS! THIS IS THE WAY I IMAGINE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA GOES INTO ACTION!

THE FOLLOWING EVENING, AS A GRIMLY GARBED CREATURE OF THE NIGHT PROWLS THE LONELY LABYRINTH THAT IS GOTHAM CITY AFTER DARK...

HELLO! THE BAT-TECTOR IS KICKING UP!

THE HUNCH I HAD TO TAKE THIS ROUTE TONIGHT-- IS ABOUT TO PAY OFF!

INSIDE THE GOTHAM CITY MUSEUM WORKSHOP--WHERE RARE ART TREASURES ARE CLEANED AND PROCESSED FOR DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM...

HERE COMES BATMAN-- JUST AS WE COUNTED ON!

HE DOESN'T KNOW IT--BUT THAT DOORWAY IS BOOBY-TRAPPED WITH ENOUGH DYNAMITE TO BLAST HIM TO BAT-BITS ALL OVER THE JOINT!

SOON AS HE CROSSES THE DOORWAY, HE'LL BREAK AN ELECTRIC EYE BEAM AND...



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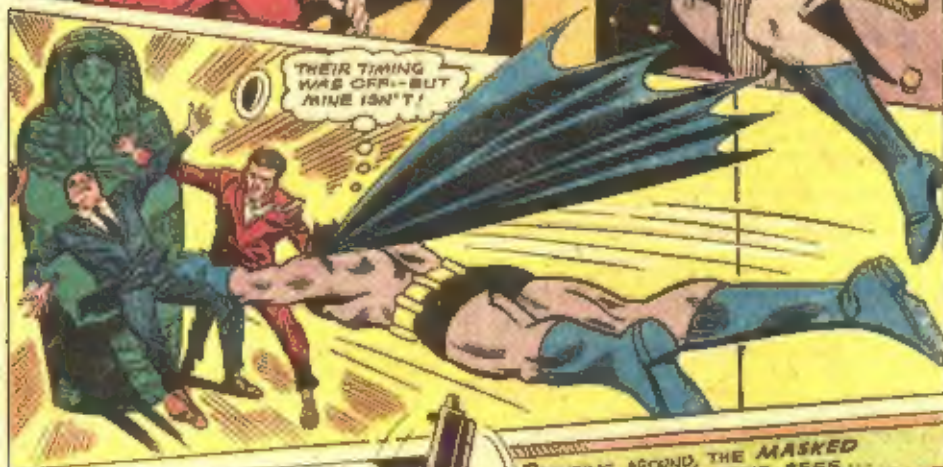
**TALK--** THROUGH THE DUST AND DEBRIS OF A DYNAMITE-DISINTEGRATED DOORWAY HURTTLES THE MIGHTILY MUSCLED FORM OF THE **CAPED CRUSAIDER...**

HE AIN'T HUMAN!

NOBODY-BUT NOBODY-- COULD HAVE LIVED THROUGH THAT!

I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED-- BUT THE DOORWAY BLEW UP --

-- JUST BEFORE I GOT TO IT!



THEIR TIMING WAS OFF-- BUT MINE ISN'T!



NEVER THOUGHT I'D HAVE TO RELY ON MY GUN--

! OOPS! KICKED IT OUTA MY HAND!



PIVOTING AROUND, THE MASKED **RANHUNTER** SEES...

THIS PLACE IS LIKE AN ARMORY-- LOADED WITH ALL SORTS OF WEAPONS!

THAT MEDIEVAL BATTLE-MACE--



WHILE OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM WORKSHOP, ON A NEARBY ROOFTOP...

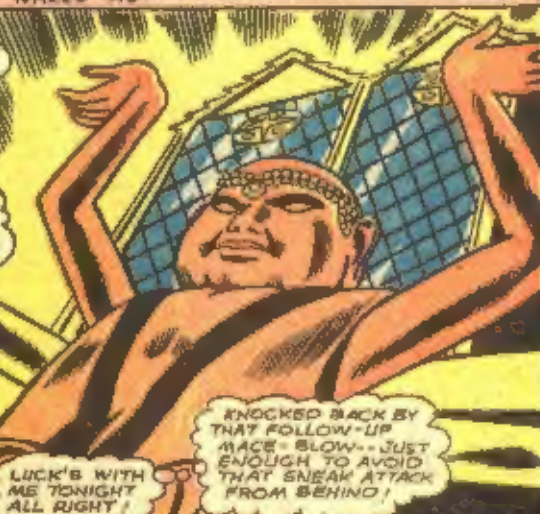
HOW DROLL! A DART FROM MY UMBRELLA ACTIVATED THE ELECTRIC EYE BEAM THAT WOULD HAVE BLASTED BATMAN!

IT PROVES MY MYSTERIOUS STOOL PIGEON SPOKE THE TRUTH!

NOW THAT I'VE GIVEN BATMAN A REPRIEVE, I'M CONFIDENT HE'LL CARRY ON IN HIS CUSTOMARY WINNING WAY!



THE THUD-AND-CRACK OF FLYING FISTS AND WHIRLING WEAPONS ECHO FROM THE WORKSHOP WALLS AS--



KNOCKED BACK BY THAT FOLLOW-UP MACE-BLOW--JUST ENOUGH TO AVOID THAT SNEAK ATTACK FROM BEHIND!

LUCK'S WITH ME TONIGHT ALL RIGHT!



I DON'T INTEND TO FENCE AROUND WITH YOU--



I'M PARRYING YOUR BATTLE-MACE WITH AN ARMLOCK-AND-SHOULDER FLIP!



MASSIVELY MUSCLED HANDS GRIP  
AND TIGHTEN ON THE BAR OF A  
NEG-SURREALIST STATUE, AG...

THREE MORE OF  
'EM -- WITH  
GUNS!...

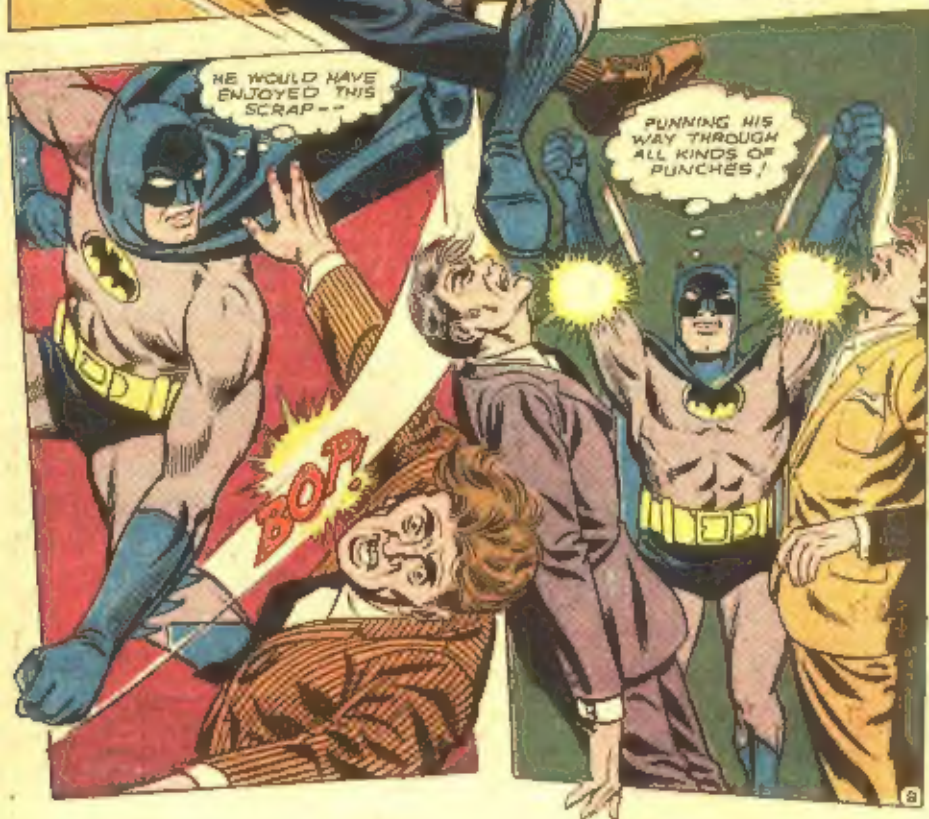
I'M A LITTLE  
CROWDED IN THESE  
QUARTERS, SO --

I'LL CLEAR A LITTLE  
FIGHTING ROOM FOR  
MYSELF!





UNCOILING LIKE A SHAPPING SPRING, THE GOTHAM GANGBUSTER'S FISTS ARE HUMAN HAMMERS OF FLESH AND BONE AS THEY BEAT ON THEIR TARGETS!...



IN THE GOTHAM THIEVES' DEN, NEXT DAY...

WELL, MY BURGLARIZING BIRDS OF ILL QMEN, NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS, DO YOU BELIEVE --

WE BELIEVE! THIS MEANS I'M NEXT ON OUR "SAVE BATMAN" OPERATION!

WHY THE OBERSTALKER HAT, HAD MATTER?

SINCE I'M TEMPORARILY ON THE SIDE OF LAW- AND-ORDER-- MY SHERLOCK HOLMES HEADGEAR IS MOST APPROPRIATE TO THE OCCASION!



BUT I'LL BE CHANGING IT FOR THIS MINER'S HEADPIECE WITH ITS SPECIAL HEADLAMP PICTURE WHEN I "TAKE THE FIELD"!

WHEN AND WHERE IS THE SYNDICATE SCHEDULED TO STRIKE NEXT?

TONIGHT-- AT THE OPEN AIR JEWELRY DISPLAY PUT ON BY THE GOTHAM CITY GEM SALON!

THAT BALMY EVENING, AS THE BATMOBILE STALKS THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY...

WHAT A TIME FOR THE HOT-LINE TO SOUND OFF!

JUST WHEN I'VE MADE UP MY MIND TO CHECK OUT THE OPEN AIR JEWELRY DISPLAY...



BATMAN, WE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT SOME CROOKS ARE GOING TO ROB THE GEM SALON DISPLAY IN GOTHAM SQUARE PARK!



I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU, COMMISSIONER! I WAS ON MY WAY THERE WHEN YOU CALLED!

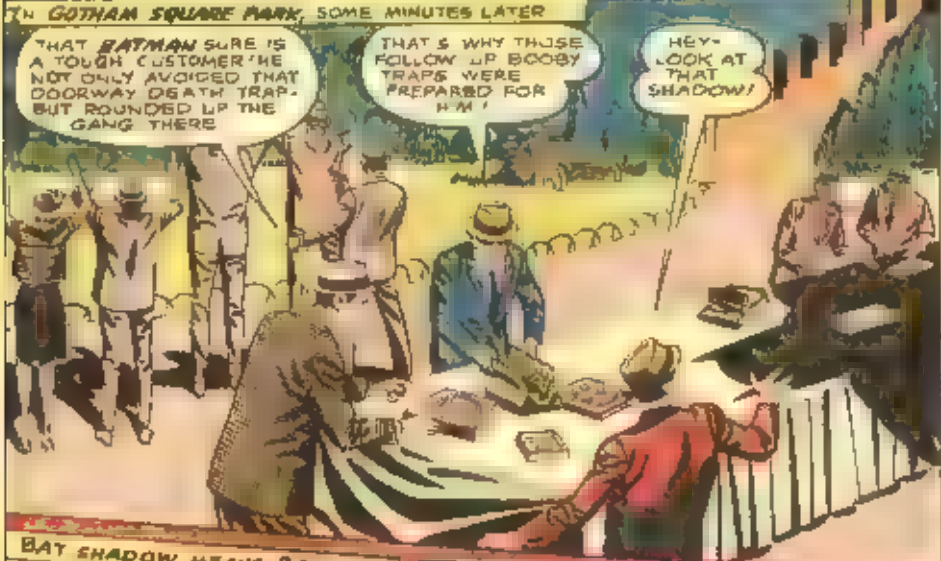


IN GOTHAM SQUARE PARK, SOME MINUTES LATER

THAT BATMAN SURE IS A TOUGH CUSTOMER! HE NOT ONLY AVOIDED THAT DOORWAY DEATH TRAP, BUT ROUNDED UP THE GANG THERE!

THAT'S WHY THOSE FOLLOW UP BOOBY TRAPS WERE PREPARED FOR HIM!

HEY-LOOK AT THAT SHADOW!



BAT SHADOW MEANS BATMAN!

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL HE'S HERE!

HERE'S WHERE THOSE GUN-HAPPY CROOKS HAVE A BALL

WITH THIS TEAR-GAS BALL!

GETTING BLIND EYED!

WELL, DON'T JUST STAND HERE LIKE DUMMIES

LET'S SET HIM UP FOR THE KILL!

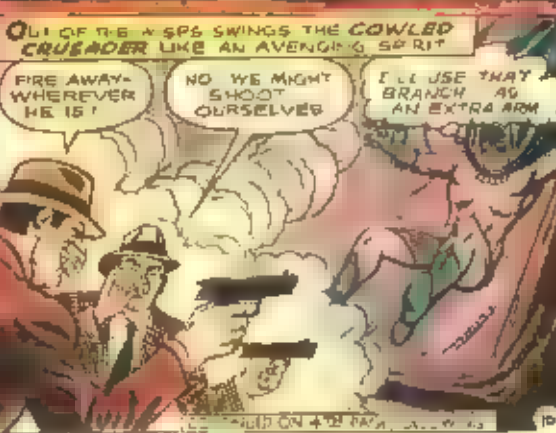


OUT OF THE ASPS SWINGS THE COWLED CRUADER LIKE AN AVENGING SPIRIT

FIRE AWAY-WHEREVER HE IS!

NO WE MIGHT SHOOT OURSELVES

I'LL USE THAT BRANCH AS AN EXTRA ARM



# Letters to the BATCAVE



Dear Editor

So many times have I read in letter columns comments to the effect that "Bob Kane" is the author of this story and etc. — my mind is a little fuzzy for a moment and I am forced to forget my prejudices and admit that Bob Kane really did write this story. I don't know how, but in some way Kane has been able to write a story that is so good. I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story.

Maybe it was the story, and a good one indeed, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story. I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story. I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story. I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story.

As for the two females that highlighted the story — I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story. I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story. I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story. I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story.

Batgirl was played to her potential. Her character has been established firmly enough, so that when she walked away from Batman, having been humiliated by Catwoman, I knew she wouldn't complain or make excuses. You know, after this story I might actually welcome encounters between the Beautiful Batgirl and Poison Ivy.

JOHN LEWIS LINTA, Ed.

(It was a Fox (Gardner variety) that lived up the Winnetu (Cat Variety) in the story. Your yearning for a confrontation with Poison Ivy evoked a similar feeling in the next correspondent. Editor)

Dear Editor

Batman 197 was the issue that I've long been waiting for! After seeing how the "new look" changed the Riddler, Penguin and Joker I am glad at the version of Catwoman you gave us. I am happy to say that Catwoman, the Countess of Crime, is still as cunning, sinister and exciting as ever. However, there's just one thing about her that bothers me — she's still green.

When Batgirl first began to get recognition, popularity and etc. — my mind is a little fuzzy for a moment and I am forced to forget my prejudices and admit that Bob Kane really did write this story.

As a fan of the story, I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story. I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story. I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story. I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story.

Before — Batman! was quite something!

In the future, I would like to see Catwoman and Batgirl meet him. Villainous Villainess, Poison Ivy. Since Poison Ivy is also in love with Batman, it would be interesting to see what the Princess of Plunder would do in an intriguing situation like this.

Now as to what's been bothering me about Catwoman's "new look." Of late I've noticed that some of your costumed villains wear green. The Joker has given me a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story. I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story. I am a little bit of a fan of the story, but I am a little bit of a fan of the story.

Now to my dismay, Catwoman's new uniform has turned green too! Did you ever see a green cat? No, of course not! But you have seen a black cat, right? And as just what she is — a feline black cat! So please revise Catwoman's costume to overall black (perhaps with purple gloves, boots, belt mask, and "ears")! She'll look much better more sinister and mysterious, and literally be a black cat!

Michael Erdman Brooklyn, NY

(Oh boy, am we lucky! If you had known that theinker of this Catwoman story was Sid Greene — Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor

Not dog! Wow! And all that kind of stuff! Although I realize it's in fashion to present one's comments as reservedly and intelligently as one can, I just can't help myself back. "Catwoman Sets Her Claws for Batman" was the best story of the year. You really ended up on a good note and there are so many reasons for this I won't even begin the cover here all!

The story itself was very good in plot and action. The return of Catwoman will bring controversy I'm sure, but not from me. I'm reasonable sure, also, that other readers will be so I will go to another subject and let them elaborate on that facet of this masterpiece.

The interior artwork was stunning. Please keep Sid Greene as the inker. Bob Kane's pencils really turn to gold with green ink. As for the cover I'm still trying to figure out why the artists were. At first glance I would venture a guess at it being Infantino and Cielia, but seeing how the latter hasn't been making any covers lately I would say the inker was George Roussin.

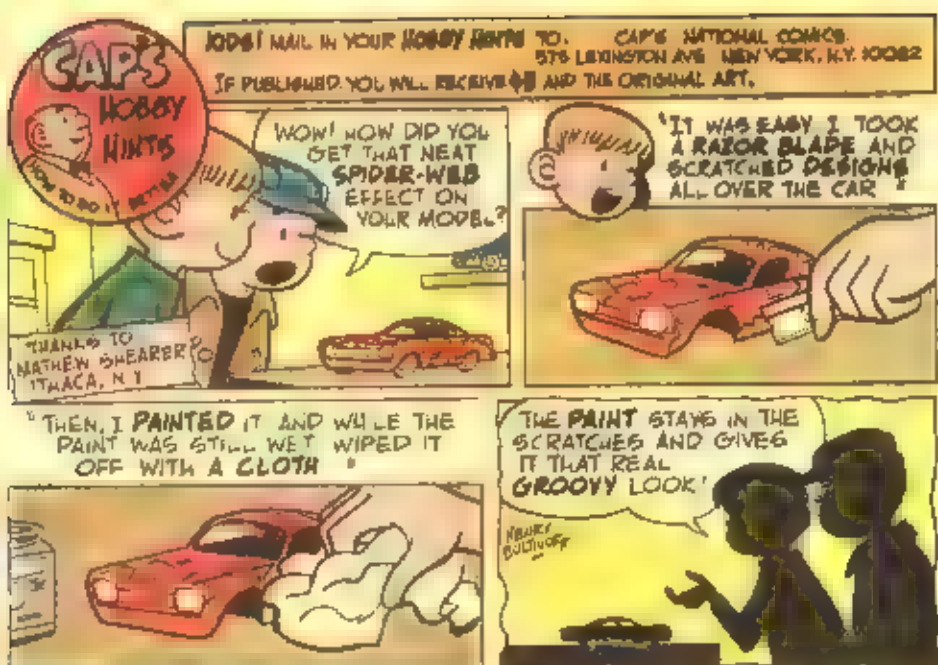
Dave Truettide So. St. Paul, Minn.

You were right in identifying Infantino as the cover artist. I'll take a good eye to spot this issue's cover artist. Editor

\*\*\*\*\*

Address communications in LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE National Periodical Publications, 574 Lexington Ave. New York, N.Y. 10022





**PALISADES**  
AMUSEMENT PARK N.J.

1/2 MILE SOUTH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE



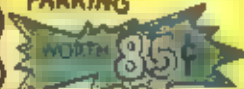
LOOK FOR THIS COUPON IN ALL  
MAY THROUGH OCTOBER ISSUES

ADMIT ONE (1) to  
**PALISADES**  
AMUSEMENT PARK, N.J.

GOOD MONDAY, WEDNESDAY  
and FRIDAYS  
(EXCEPT HOLIDAYS,  
UNTIL 7 P.M.)

**FREE**  
ADMISSION

PARKING

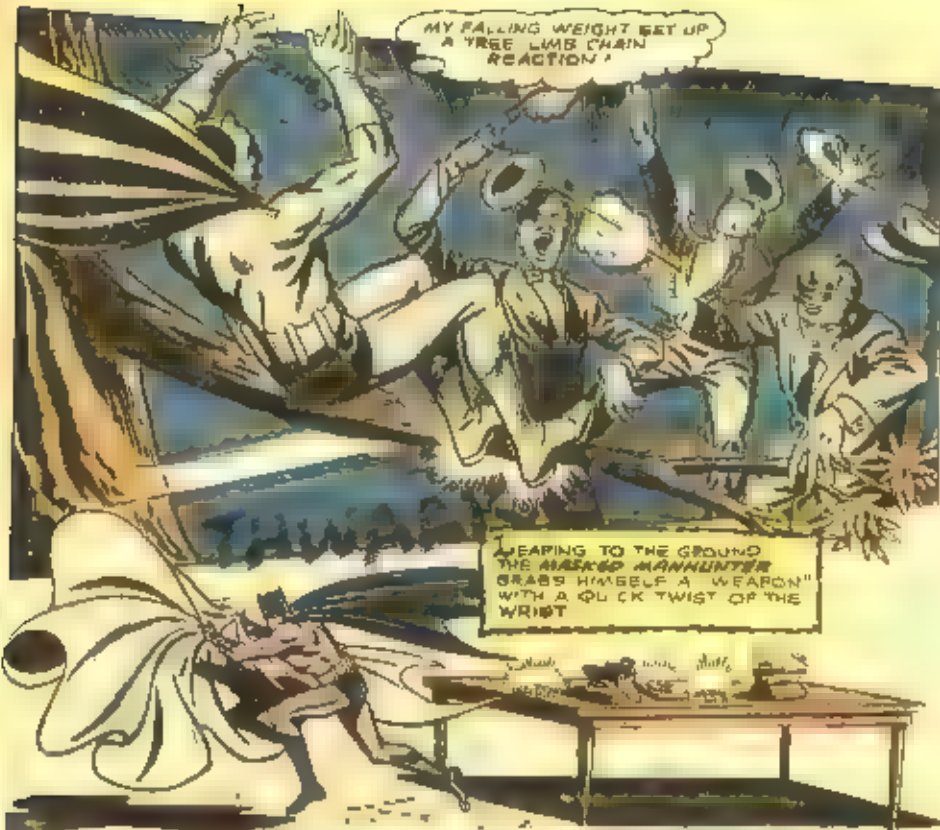


~ FREE RIDE ~

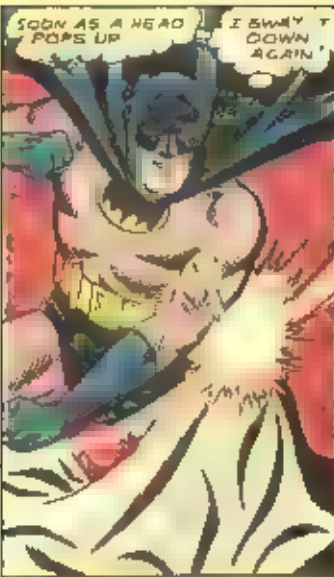
**BATMAN** SLIDE

~ FREE RIDE ~

**CAROUSEL**

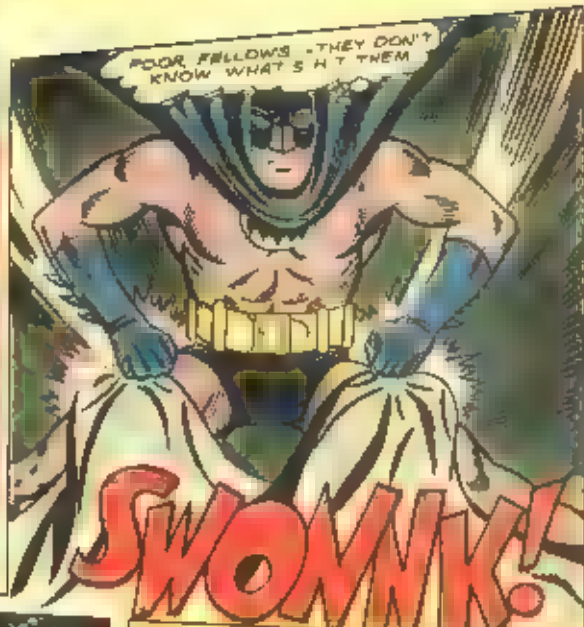






SOON AS A HEAD  
POPS UP

I SWAY T  
DOWN  
AGAIN!



POOR FELLOWS - THEY DON'T  
KNOW WHAT'S H T THEM

**SWONNK!**



AS THE LAST HOODLUM  
CRUMPLES UNDERNEATH  
THE CLOTH

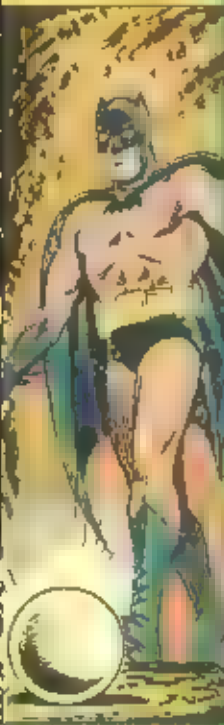
THERE LL BE NO MORE INTERFERENCE  
AS I GATHER UP THE SCATTERED  
LOOT



ONE BY ONE THE JEWELS ARE REPLACED  
ON THE DISPLAY TABLE UNT L

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THAT  
BIG PEARL

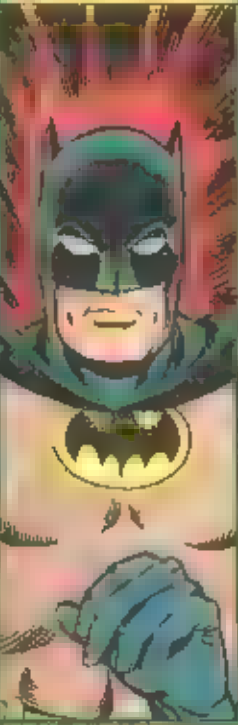
WITHOUT THOUGHT  
OF DANGER THE  
GOTHAM CITY  
GUARDIAN WALKS  
FORWARD, HIS FOOT  
FALLS ECHOING WITH  
HOLLOW THUDS



THE DISGUISED  
DOOM GEM LURES  
HIM AS A MAGNET  
ATTRACTS IRON  
FLAGS



A PUSH SEEMINGLY  
BLANKETS THE CITY  
AS DEATH HOLDS  
ITS BREATH WAITING  
FOR THE MAN WHO HAS  
SO LONG AVOIDED  
ITS CLUTCHES



HIS HAND BEGINS  
ITS DESCENT AS  
DEATH CROUCHES  
TO POUNCE



WHEN SUDDENLY HE IS YIRN APART BY A DEAFENING EXPLOSION





HIDDEN IN THE SHADOWS OF  
GOTHAM SQUARE, A CURIOUS  
FIGURE CHUCKLES.

I COULDN'T  
RESIST WAITING  
FOR THE LAST  
POSSIBLE  
MOMENT TO  
SPARE  
BATMAN!



14

THE FINE  
PEARL  
WHICH THE  
SYNDICATE  
PLANTED  
HERE  
WAS SET  
TO BLOW  
AS SOON AS  
BATMAN'S  
BODY-HEAT  
TOUCHED IT...  
BUT THE HEAT  
OF MY MINER'S  
LAMP SET IT  
OFF FIRST!

FOR A FULSPEOUNDING  
INSTANT, THE MASHED  
MANHUNTER STA DS  
BLINDED--DEAFENED--  
BY THAT FEARSON'S  
FULMINATION.

IF I'D BEEN  
ANY CLOSER--  
I'D BE AT  
THOSE PEARLY  
OATES RIGHT  
NOW!



IT'S  
AS IF A  
GUARDIAN  
ANGEL--  
MADE  
THAT PEARL  
BLOW UP  
BEFORE I  
TOUCHED  
IT!

IS IT POSSIBLE  
I HAVE A  
HIDDEN ALLY--  
WHO KEEPS  
SAVING MY  
LIFE?

WHY WON'T  
HE MAKE  
HIMSELF  
KNOWN TO  
ME?

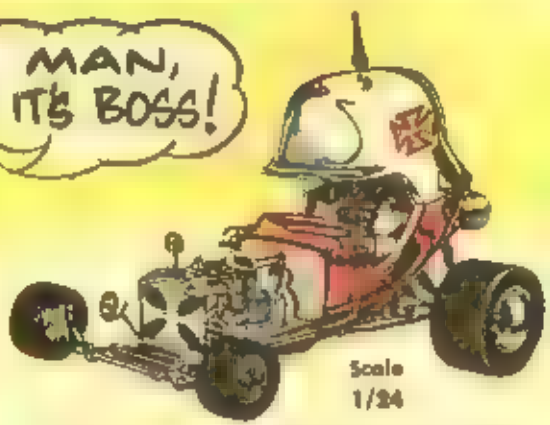
WHAT DOES  
HE HOP TO  
ACCOMPLISH BY  
KEEPING HIS  
IDENTITY A  
SECRET?



STORY CONTINUES ON THE  
NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING.



MAN,  
IT'S BOSS!



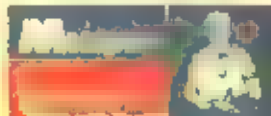
Scale  
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The top is a giant chromed aurler  
helmet. The mill is a 1914 Mer-  
cedes-Benz aircraft engine. The  
stylized "T" body is backed up  
with a German canten gas tank  
and sports German Spandau ma-  
chine guns on both sides. Wheels  
are deep dish iron Magna  
with Goodyear low profile donuts  
up front and giant smokers on  
the rear. Detailed interior has

bucket seats, instrument console,  
steering wheel and stick shift.  
Made exclusively by Monogram  
Models, Inc. Morton Grove, Ill.



ONCE AGAIN BATMAN'S SAVANNAH GUARDIANS MEET TO DISCUSS THE PROGRESS OF THEIR CAMPAIGN

I'M HAVING AS GOOD A TIME AS A KITTEN WITH A BALL OF TWINE

WHO GETS TO PLAY "SAVE BATMAN" NEXT PENGUIN?

YOU DO, CLUBMASTER- THIS VERY NIGHT AT THE MEADOWLAND AMUSEMENT PARK!



THAT EVENING IN THE BATCAVE

IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE I WENT ON BAT-COPPER PATROL

I'VE GOT A BREAKING SENSATION IT'LL COME IN HANDY TONIGHT



UP FROM THE PILLION HAN CAR WHEEL FORMS PART OF THE BATCAVE RISES THE BAT-COPPER

MY FIRST IDEA WAS TO PATROL THE WATERFRONT

BUT THE THOUGHT'S SUDDENLY POPPED INTO MY HEAD TO TAKE IN THE MEADOWLAND AMUSEMENT PARK!



AND THIS TIME, I BETTER BE ON SPEC. AL GUARD FOR ANY MORE OF THOSE BURNING DEATH-TRAPS

WHEN THE MASKED HUNTER APPROACHES THE BRIGHTLY LIT AMUSEMENT AREA

GUNSHOTS BEING FIRED UP AT THAT WHIRLYBIRD LOOKS LIKE CROOKS MAKING A GETAWAY BY AIR!

I'LL FLY INTO THAT CLOUD AHEAD STRIKE AT THEM FROM UNDERCOVER!





UNKNOWN TO THE COWLED  
CRUSADER, BAGER VOICES  
ARE A WARNING THAT  
CLOUDY ATTACK

THEN-- TO THE  
AMAZEMENT OF THE  
CARED CRIME-  
FIGHTER

AND WHEN THE COTTONY MAES  
TOUCHES THE MEADOWGRASS

"HUH? THE CLOUD'S  
SWERVING AWAY.  
DROPPING TO  
THE GROUND?"

"T...IT'S  
NOT  
NATURAL!"

IF I'D MOVED INTO  
THAT CLOUD I  
WOULD HAVE BEEN  
CAUGHT IN THAT  
EXPLOSION

SAVED AGAIN  
FROM ANOTHER  
DEATH TRAP  
BUT WAS I BY  
LUCK-- OR  
DESIGN?

BATMAN  
OUGHTA BE  
HITIN' THAT  
CLOUD ANY  
SEC NOW.

HOLD TIGHT  
THE IMPACT  
MIGHT JAR  
US -

HIDDEN IN A NEARBY TREE-- THE CLUE-  
MASTER

I USED A MAGNETIC  
DEVICE TO PULL  
THAT DOOM-CLOUD  
AWAY FROM  
BATMAN--

AND A REMOTE  
CONTROL GADGET  
TO DETONATE  
IT BEFORE  
BATMAN  
CONTACTED IT!

# DIRECT CURRENTS

Well, it's time for more news about the newest from the DC front. Coming up is the introduction of a new hero: ANTHRO; New Aquans; Superman-Batman team; Steve Ditko's CREEPER; own mag and on 80 PAGES; ANGEL; the leg on of Super-Heroes! P.S. Don't forget two new features on the agenda for the near future: ANGEL AND THE APE and THE HAWK AND THE DOVE!



In the midst of the toughest fighting he has experienced in EASY COMPANY SGT ROCK finds himself faced with an incredible miracle, in his latest battle bonanza—"BLOOD IN THE DESERT!" This is one of the most startling war adventures in ROCK'S career—and it's in the May OUR ARMY AT WAR, No. 193, on sale March 5.



WONDER WOMAN faces one of the most fearsome threats of all time, and it seems as if the AMAZING AMAZON may have come to the end of her reign of triumph on earth when she is suddenly and sternly confronted by the—"THREAT OF THE RIPLE STARS!" This super-sensation is featured in the June issue No. 116, on sale March 7!

Wonder Woman's adventures continue in the June issue of EASY COMPANY SGT ROCK, No. 193, on sale March 5. In this issue, SGT ROCK and his Easy Company are faced with a double-crossing wagon master threaten them with death in the June TOMAHAWK, No. 116, on sale March 7!

When some spies use the LITTLE BO PEEP SCHOOL FOR GIRLS as a hideout, who should be appointed to smoke 'em out? You guessed it—the KING OF KOOKS himself—JERRY LEWIS! You'll laugh it up and yell it up in the mirth-quaking mystery, "THE COCKEYED PRIVATE EYE," in the June issue No. 106, on sale March 7!

She came from the black void of outer space on a mission of MURDER—to teach the world a lethal lesson—"HOW TO KILL A SEA-KING!" Yes, the target for the woman from another world is none other than AGLAMAN! Can the monarch of ATLANTIS do as he daresly drill? See the June issue, No. 39, on sale





TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS RESCUE THE  
CAPED CRUISADER'S COPTER SHOOT  
OUT SUCTION CAPS THAT LATCH ONTO  
THE CROOKS' CRAFT

ALL I HAVE TO DO  
NOW IS HAUL 'EM  
TO HEADQUARTERS

WITH A  
GRATEFUL  
BOW TO  
MY  
MYSTERIOUS  
BENEFACCTOR  
WHO SAVED  
MY LIFE  
AGAIN

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER, AS FOG ROLLS  
ACROSS THE WATERS OF GOTHAM CITY  
HARBOR

HERE I  
AM PATROLLING  
WHERE I HAD  
NTENDED GOING  
LAST NIGHT--

BUT THIS TIME I'M  
BAT-SOATING IT--  
HUNTING FOR  
SMUGGLERS!

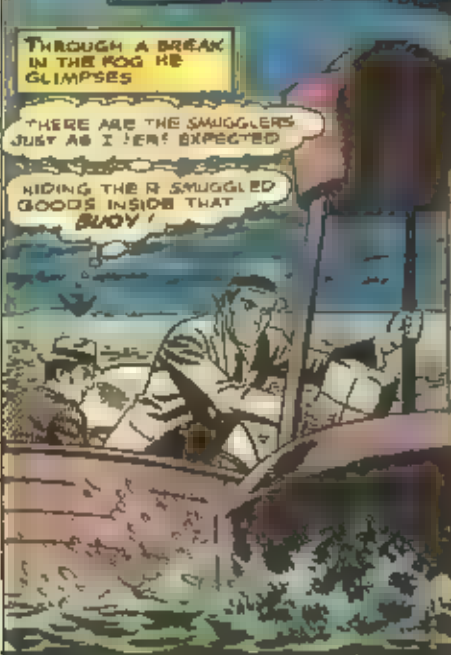
HUN? NOW WHAT  
MADE ME  
THINK THAT?!



THROUGH A BREAK  
IN THE FOG HE  
GLIMPSES

THERE ARE THE SMUGGLERS  
JUST AS I HES EXPECTED

HIDING THE R SMUGGLED  
GOODS INSIDE THAT  
BUOY!



HERE COMES  
BATMAN--  
RIGHT ON  
SCHEDULE!

HAW! I CAN  
HARDLY  
WAIT TO  
SEE HIM  
GRAB THE  
STUFF INSIDE  
THE BUOY

YEAH-- I'LL  
KNOCK  
THE  
STUFFIN'  
OUT OF  
HIM!



I HATE A MUNCH I BETTER  
REMOVE THE BOAT FROM THE  
SCENE HOLD TIGHT AS  
EVIDENCE!

I MIGHT NOT BE  
HERE AFTER  
I GRAB THOSE  
SMUGGLERS

8 BUT ARE THE  
BAT BOATS ANGET  
WILL PAYING  
THIS ANGE

A HANT WITS HE WHEEL  
A FOOT SLAMS THE  
AL ELEVATOR THE BAT  
BOAT PILES FORWARD  
LIKE A ROCKET

3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
THROUGH WITH THE TWO  
SPEEDY RACE & RACE LINE  
CAME THE WRATHS

THOSE SMUGGLERS  
ARE COUNTING ON  
GETTING AWAY IN  
THIS THICK FOG

BUT THE  
BAT BOATS  
EQUIPPED  
WITH RADAR  
JUST AS THE  
BATMOBILE

JOHNNY WITTS  
SIT ONE  
STEP AHEAD OF  
YOU BATMAN!

REMEMBER THAT  
NEXT TIME WE  
LASH ON OUR  
OWN AND I GOT  
AT YOU

ANOTHER  
DEATH  
TRAP

AND ANOTHER  
SALE FOR MY  
UNKNOWN  
BENEFITOR

A 10 IN THE PURSUIT NARROWS

I HEAR THE BAT BOAT  
BUT WHERE'S BATMAN?  
THAT BLASTED FOR

I SEE HIM SHINGING  
HE A JACK IN THE BOX  
OUT OF THE MISTS



NOTHING CAN STAND AGAINST THE AWESOME ATTACK OF THE MASKED MANHUNTER--  
NOT EVEN ON A SWAYING BOAT



I'M GOING  
FLAT OUT  
FIN SH THIS  
JOB IN A  
HURRY

SEVERAL MIN-TES LATER WHEN THE SMUGGLERS CRAFT WITH THE BAT-BOAT 'N TOW - EDGED  
INTO A WATERFRONT DOCK



WE HAD A T P  
THERE WAS A  
PHONY BATMAN  
WORKING A  
SMUGGLING  
RACKET AND  
NOW WE'VE  
GOT H M

YOU'RE UNDER  
ARREST

YOU'RE MAKING A  
MISTAKE OFFICERS  
I'M THE REAL  
BATMAN

BUT HOW AM  
I PROVE  
IT?

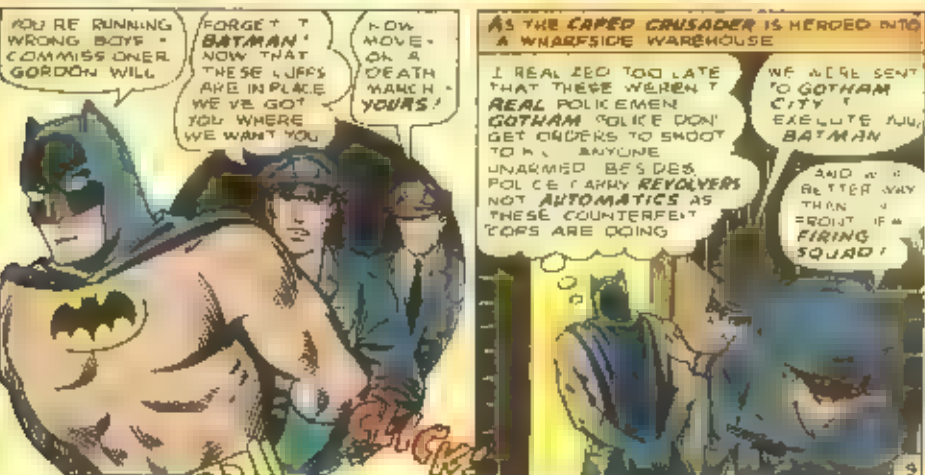


ONE FALSE MOVE  
BATMAN--

AND OUR ORDERS  
ARE SHOOT TO  
KILL

I'LL COME ALONG  
QUIETLY OFFICERS

COMMISSIONER  
GORDON LL HAVE  
TO GET ME OUT  
OF THIS



YOU'RE RUNNING  
WRONG BOYS -  
COMMISSIONER  
GORDON WILL

FORGET T  
BATMAN -  
NOW THAT  
THESE GUYS  
ARE IN PLACE  
WE'VE GOT  
YOU WHERE  
WE WANT YOU

NOW  
MOVE -  
OK A  
DEATH  
MARCH -  
YOURS

AS THE CAPED CRUISADER IS HERDED INTO  
A WHARF-SIDE WAREHOUSE

I REALIZED TOO LATE  
THAT THESE WEREN'T  
REAL POLICEMEN  
GOTHAM POLICE DON'T  
GET ORDERS TO SHOOT  
TO KILL ANYONE  
UNARMED BESIDES  
POLICE CARRY REVOLVERS  
NOT AUTOMATICS AS  
THESE COUNTERFEIT  
TOPS ARE DOING

WE WERE SENT  
TO GOTHAM  
CITY  
EXECUTE YOU  
BATMAN

AND WE'LL  
BETTER WAY  
THAN  
FRONT IF A  
FIRING  
SQUAD!

**HANDCUFFED--FACING SEVEN EXPERT MARKSMEN--  
BATMAN APPEARS FINALLY TO HAVE BEEN CAUGHT  
IN AN INESCAPABLE DEATH-TRAP!**

YOU'LL NEVER  
ESCAPE FROM  
THIS 2ND,  
BATMAN!

WE'RE ALL GOING TO  
SHOOT AT ONCE--SO  
NOBODY GETS CREDIT  
FOR HAVING KILLED  
CRIME-OM'S GREATEST  
NEMESIS!

READY--  
AIM--

**FIRE!**

**BUT** WHEN THE GUNSMOKE CLEARS

HE'S  
GONE

DOWN THAT  
TRAP-DOOR!

HOW'D I  
LET THERE?

AM THE WORLD'S  
SECOND-BEST  
ESCAPE ARTIST  
BUT HAVING ANY  
TROUBLE WRIGGLING  
OUT OF HIS "BRACELETS"

HE'S ON HIS OWN  
NOW--AND IF I  
KNOW BATMAN,  
THAT GANG IS IN  
FOR IT!

ROCKING WITH DELIGHT IN A SMALL  
ROOM OF THE WAREHOUSE BASEMENT  
THE GETAWAY GENIUS CONGRATULATES  
HIMSELF ON A PERFECT PERFORMANCE.

I COULDN'T HAVE DONE  
BETTER IF I'D FLAMMABLED  
MYSELF OUT OF THAT  
FIRING SQUAD TRAP.

ALL I HAD  
TO DO WAS  
RIG A TRAP-  
DOOR WHERE  
THE EXECUTION  
WAS TO TAKE  
PLACE--AND  
TRIP IT AN  
INSTANT BEFORE  
THOSE EXECUTIONERS  
FIRED!



SHEDDING HIS HANDCUFFS AS HE  
RALES UP THE WAREHOUSE  
STAIRS, THE COWLED CRUISER  
THUNDERS FORWARD

THEY'RE SO  
BUSY WONDERING  
WHAT HAPPENED  
THEY'LL NEVER  
HEAR ME TELL  
IT'S TOO LATE

THREE OF THEM  
WITH THEIR BACKS  
TO ME ARE  
PERFECTLY  
POSITIONED TO  
MEET THEIR  
DOWNFALL  
FIRST

THAT LESSENS THE ODDS--  
BY ABOUT 43 TO 1

A ROUNDHOUSE PUNCH SWEEPS THROUGH  
THE AIR  
THAT DISPOSES  
OF ANOTHER  
DUO

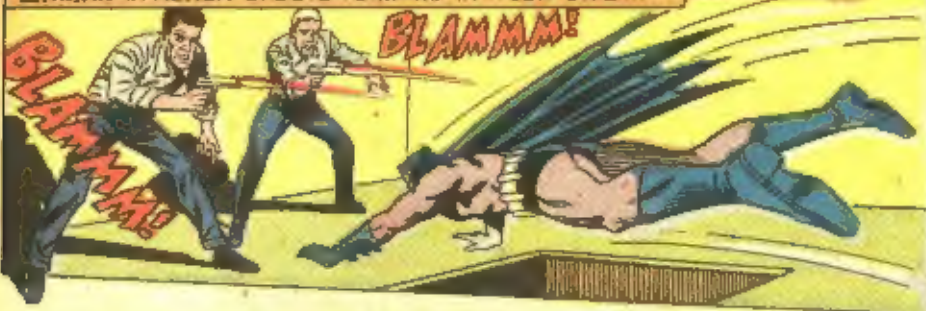
AND WHEN HE TURNS- IT IS TO FACE TWO DEADLY AUTOMATICS

'YOU FIGHT REAL  
GOOD, BATMAN'

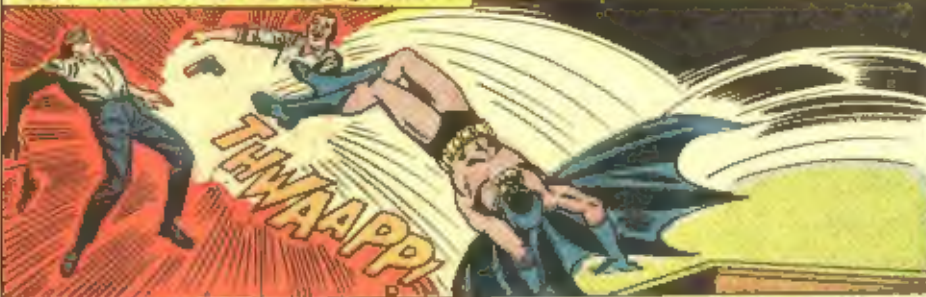
BUT YOU CAN'T BRACE  
A COUPLE OF  
BULLETS!

I AM STILL AIMING  
FOR TOTAL  
VICTORY!

EVEN AS TRIGGER-FINGERS TIGHTEN-- THE PERFECT FIGHTING MACHINE THAT IS BATMAN IN ACTION SHOOTS FORWARD IN A LOW DIVE...



HANDS LIKE STEEL VISES FASTEN ON THE WAREHOUSE FLOOR-- AS HIS MUSCULAR BODY ERUPTS LIKE A STEEL SPRING!



IN THE BATCAVE, SOME HOURS LATER, AFTER THE SYNDICATE GANGSTERS HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED...

...AND SO, ALFRED, I FINALLY REALIZED IT HAD TO BE MISTER ESPER-- WHO USED HIS TRICK MEGAPHONE TO PROJECT SUPER-SONIC WHISPERS INTO THE SUBCONSCIOUS PART OF MY MIND--

SUGGESTING TO ME HOW AND WHERE TO GO ON MY NIGHT-PATROLS...

THOUGH I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY HE DID IT--OR WHO IT WAS THAT SAVED ME FROM THOSE DEATH-TRAPS!

TELL ME, ALFRED... WAS IT YOU WHO PLAYED GUARDIAN ANGEL--AS YOU DID ON ANOTHER OCCASION?

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, SIR-- BUT I'VE BEEN IN THE HOUSE EVERY EVENING-- PLAYING SCRABBLE WITH AUNT HARRIETT!

WELL, IF YOU DIDN'T SAVE ME--IT MUST HAVE BEEN ROBIN!

THE BOY WONDER ENTERS THE BATCAVE IN TIME TO CATCH BATMAN'S LAST WORDS...

I WISH I COULD CLAIM THE CREDIT--BUT I WAS MILES AWAY WITH THE TEEN TITANS--AND ONLY GOT BACK THIS MINUTE!

HMMMM! COULD IT HAVE BEEN A FELLOW MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE--WHO DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE HIS PRESENCE KNOWN FOR SOME REASON?

I WONDER IF I'LL EVER KNOW?

#DETECTIVE COMICS #352: "BATMAN'S CRIME HUNT A GO-GO!"



AND IN THE SECRET HIDEAWAY OF BATMAN'S GANGLAND GUARDIAN...

WORD'S JUST REACHED ME THAT THE SYNDICATE'S PLAN TO TAKE OVER GOTHAM CITY HAS BEEN CANCELED! THEY'RE AFRAID THEY'LL ALL WIND UP BEING CAPTURED BY BATMAN!

HA HA! THE JOKE'S ON THEM! NOW-- WHO GETS FIRST CRACK AT BATMAN?

LADIES FIRST!

KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HATS-- BUT I'VE SET MY CAP FOR THE CAPED CRUSADER!

I'M ONE STEP AHEAD OF ALL OF YOU!

WHILE THAT ARGUMENT RAGES HOTLY-- THE CRIMINAL KNOWN AS MISTER ESPER SMILES TO HIMSELF...

I WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE SYNDICATE TO LURE BATMAN INTO THOSE DEATH-TRAPS! BUT SINCE I'M EAGER TO TACKLE BATMAN AGAIN IN MY OWN S.S.P. FASHION-- I HAD TO PUT A STOP TO IT!

SO UNKNOWN TO THE SYNDICATE, I SUPER-WHISPERED INTO PENGUIN'S BRAIN ALL THE DETAILS OF THE DEATH-TRAPS-- KNOWING HE'D CALL ON GOTHAM'S TOP CROOKS TO HELP SAVE BATMAN FOR THEMSELVES!

NOW THE WAYS BEEN CLEARED FOR ME TO TAKE ANOTHER CRACK AT BATMAN!

I CAN EXPECT STIFF COMPETITION FROM THOSE OTHER VILLAINS-- BUT I'M SOUND TO WIN!

29

THE END

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

**A**

**WORLD'S FINEST**

DO WHATEVER DO! OUR SUPERHEROES WILL DO IT FOR YOU!

DO CAPED CRUSADER DO! BATMAN WILL DO IT FOR YOU!

**B**

**JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA**

**PANIC FROM A BLACKMAIL BOX!**

WHICH MEANS... TAKE ONE FROM COLUMN A, AND ONE FROM COLUMN B, STARTING MAR. 12

# LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE—EXTRA

Dear Editor:

Look! Rumbling down the road! Is it a motorized cardboard box? Is it a rocket-powered sardine can? NO! It's the *Batmobile*. Alright, you guys, you've given us the story we've been waiting for. "The Round-Robin Murder" story was a work of art. It was like it came right out of the *Golden Age of Comics*. So why not stick to the trend, get rid of the cross between an *Edsel* and an *Aston*, and bring back the original *Batmobile*?

Before the "new look" hit *Batman*, the *Batmobile* was... well, the *Batmobile*. As I remember, the *Batmobile* was built with speed in mind. It was used to send *Batman* and *Robin* barreling after crooks and it wasn't loaded down with a ton and a half of *Bat-garbage*. It was also designed with protection in mind. If I also remember correctly, the old *Batmobile* could stand up to hand grenades, bazooka shells, and mine fields and still keep the crusaders safe and sound.

Then in jumps the "new look" and with it a new model of the *Batmobile*. Gone now is the job of protection from the *Batmobile*, as the new model is a convertible. However, it was sleek, speedy, and just as good-looking as the old *Batmobile*. Also, it had very little *Bat-junk* on it. Repeat: *was* and *had*. This new-exact, good-looking car is no more.

Suddenly, from out of nowhere, on the streets of Gotham City appears a third *Batmobile*. It looks like a cross between the first two *Batmobiles* and a 1910 tin lizzie. It offers no protection. It's as streamlined as a turtle, it's loaded down with nets, ejector seats, computers, and other *Bat-trash* the *Dynamic Duo* doesn't need—and worst of all, it's ugly as sin.

Your recent stories have been superb. So why don't you take the new *Batmobile* and wrap it around a tree and bring back the original *Batmobile*? I can't stand this new thing!

—Craig Merrick, South Bend, Ind.

(Gil Kane introduced yet another "new" version of the *Batmobile* in the January, 1968 *Detective Comics*—which has been slightly modified in the forthcoming May *Detective*. But can there—should there—ever be a final, unchangeable model? —Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

The "new look" is now so firmly entrenched we don't even call it that anymore. There's no doubt about it—*Batman* and *Robin* are different. Gone are the mad melange of characters: *Bat-Mite*, *Batwoman*, *Vicki Vale*, etc. I remember the wild controversy that followed the major shake-up. The only people who remained cool and indifferent were Bruce Wayne and Dick Grayson—they kept on slugging the thugs, same as ever.

The death of *Alfred* was the most dramatic event in *Batman's* history. Sure, the clamor of the fans' indignation was great. So great, in fact, that you went so far as to revive everyone's favorite butler.

But by now you'd like to know what my point is. This all the old characters were dropped, including *Alfred*, and even the style of *Batman* was changed. Then, the tide of demand became so overwhelming that *Alfred* was brought back. Well now, the fans do wield a lot of power, don't they? So I'd like to kick off what I hope will become the great *Bat-movement*.

I want to see the return of long narrow panels, where the huge black shadow of a bat is cast upon the wall by the appearance of a duck figure on a window ledge. I want to see two cloaked figures swing through the air on long ropes as they once used to do. I want to see people in the street look up in shock at the huge symbol of a bat, projected upon the clouds. I want to see really terrific mysteries, where *Batman* rushes to find someone and discovers his quarry dead or dying. Then his sharp eyes perceive a thread, a hair, or a sample of dirt left by the killer... and his keen mind is already working out the identity or location of the murderer.

How about it, *Batmaniacs*, are you with me?

—Loren Lieberthal, New York, N.Y.

(The current, April, *Detective* features "Hunt for a Robin-Killer," which contains many of the *Bat-elements* you plead for. Check it out and then check back with us. —Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

After hurriedly reading through *Batman* 197, I came to the conclusion that it was great. Then I reread the story slowly—and came to the same conclusion. But I have formed a different opinion of *Batgirl*.

When she was first introduced I got the uplake that she would be a subsidiary character who would be used only when her presence was beneficial to the story. Now, it seems that in mind of her encounters with *Batman*, *he* is the subsidiary.

In most of the five stories she's appeared in *Batgirl* is shown as strong and healthy, while *Batman* is temporarily helpless, sick, unconscious, or surprised in thinking and detective ability by *thugoi*.

In three of these stories I got the feeling that *Batgirl* is falling in the same rut as the now-departed *Batwoman*. There will be battles between the sexes, snooping out secret identities, and maybe later, a love interest.

Don't judge me as completely anti-*Batgirl* as I have been one of her staunchest supporters from the start, but please don't give a repetition of story-lines. After I suggest you limit *Batgirl* to four or five yearly appearances in *Detective*—and maybe one in *World's Finest*. But leave *Batman Comics* strictly to *Batman* and *Robin*.

—Gene Wallace, Flint, Mich.

(Until *Batgirl's* sales ratings come in, we can make no decision on the frequency of her appearances. —Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE—EXTRA, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.



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